Uinta-Watach-Cache National Forest - Spanish Fork Ranger District

LITTLE VALLEY ALLOTMENT
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
2016

PERMITTED USE

Permittee	Permitted Use	Authorized Use	Brand	Brand Location
Ajax Cattle Company, LLC	246 cow/calf 06/06 to 10/15	246 cow/calf 06/06 to 10/15	十	LR
Jasperson Cattle LC	19 cow/calf 06/06 to 10/15	19 cow/calf 06/06 to 10/15	7H	RR
Total	265 cow/calf	265 cow/calf		

GRAZING ROTATION

The Little Valley Allotment has four pastures. Three are managed with a three-pasture rest rotation system. The riparian pasture is grazed first every other year and rested every other year. The grazing rotation for the 2016 season is listed below:

Pasture	Livestock Numbers	Dates of Use*	Days
Riparian Pasture	265 cow/calf	06/06 to 06/20	15
Red Skin Knolls	265 cow/calf	06/21 to 08/16	57
Sabie Bench	265 cow/calf	08/17 to 10/15	60
Little Valley**	REST	REST	0
Total			132

**The above rotation dates are flexible based on utilizations listed below.*

** If there is insufficient water in the Sabie Bench Pasture the Little Valley Pasture can be used but the Forest Service must be notified first.

FOREST PLAN AND ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIREMENTS

The Uinta National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, which was approved in 2003 and the allotment management plan for the Little Valley Allotment which was approved on November 22, 1993 list the following standards, guidelines and objectives:

Upland Forage Utilization

Standard: Limit grazing to meet the following utilization levels on non-riparian vegetation types based on the annual average of the current year's growth. However, through June 15 at Strawberry Reservoir Management Area and through June 1 at the Vernon Management Area, minimum canopy cover and height requirements for greater sage grouse habitat the take precedence over the forage utilization standards in the following table.

Forage Utilization Standards

Vegetation Type	Forage Utilization	
	Very Early – Early Seral	Mid – Late Seral
General Uplands and Winter Range		
Upland shrublands (sagebrush, snowberry, mountain mahogany species, cliffrose, bitterbrush, saltbrush, and mountain brush)	40%	60%
Grasslands	45%	65%

Guideline: Manage approximately 80 percent of potential greater sage grouse breeding and winter habitat areas in the Vernon and Strawberry Management Areas to support the percentages and heights of canopy cover listed in the table below. Breeding habitat should retain the given height levels of grasses and a diversity of forbs annually through June 1 in the Vernon Management Area and June 15 in the Strawberry Reservoir Management Area. Vegetation should be maintained in a mosaic of openings and shrubs.

Vegetation Requirements in the Vernon Management Area for Sage Grouse

Vegetation Type	Minimum % Canopy Cover	Minimum Height Canopy Cover[1]
Greater Sage Grouse Breeding Habitat (Maintain through June 15)		
Sagebrush	15-25%	16-32 inches
Grasses	≥ 15%	≥ 6 inches
Forbs	≥ 10%	≥ 6 inches

[1] Minimum height is measured as droop height, the highest naturally growing portion of the plant.
[2] Above snow.
N/A There are no minimum percent canopy cover or minimum height requirements for greater sage grouse winter habitat in grasses or forbs.

Riparian Forage Utilization

Standard: Limit grazing to meet the following utilization levels within Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs) based on the average current year's growth.

Utilization Standards by RHCA Class

RHCA Class	Minimum Percent of Stream Length	Utilization Standard by Season of Use	
		Very Early – Early	
		Early	Late
Minimum Greenline Stubble Height[1]			
Class I Vernon Creek Lower Little Valley Creek	90%	5”	6”
Class III Upper Little Valley Creek	70%	3”	4”
Forage Utilization Limits[2]			
Class I Vernon Creek Lower Little Valley Creek	90%	45%	35%
Class III Upper Little Valley Creek	70%	60%	50%
Riparian Pasture	N/A	45%	
Willow Utilization[2]			
Class I Vernon Creek Lower Little Valley Creek	90%	35%	
Class III Upper Little Valley Creek	70%	35%	
Riparian Pasture	N/A	30%	

Note: There are no willow utilization standards for early season use.
[1] Height of key species (palatable, hydrophytic species indicative of mid to late seral riparian plant communities, or as indicated in the site-specific Allotment Management Plan). If acceptable “key species” are absent from a site, only utilization standards shall be used.
[2] Percent of total average annual growth.

It is the permittee’s responsibility to make sure allowable use standards are not exceeded, especially in riparian areas. Permittees are encouraged to herd cattle away from riparian areas since they are generally the first areas utilized. If use along riparian areas reaches Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines, even if forage remains on the uplands, permittees will be required to remove cattle from the entire pasture or allotment. Use of the rest pasture will not be allowed.

Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RHCA)

Portions of *watersheds* where *riparian*-dependent resources receive primary emphasis and management activities are subject to specific standards and guidelines. RHCAs include traditional *riparian* corridors, *wetlands, perennial* and *intermittent* streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic *ecosystems*. There are three RHCA classes of varying widths offering varying levels of protection:

class I with widths extending 300 feet from each edge of the waterbody (600 feet total); class II with widths extending 200 feet from each edge of the waterbody (400 feet total); and class III with widths extending 100 feet from each edge of the waterbody (200 feet total).

Additional Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines

Guideline: Maintain adequate ground cover to filter runoff and prevent detrimental erosion in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs).

Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RHCA) Ground Cover Requirements

RHCA	Minimum Ground Cover Requirement	Minimum Percent of RHCA to Meet Requirement
Class I Vernon Creek Lower Little Valley Creek	90% of Potential	90%
Class III Upper Little Valley Creek	80% of Potential	70%

Standard: Locate livestock salt grounds outside of Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs).

Standard: Locate new livestock troughs, tanks, and holding facilities out of Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs). For existing livestock handling facilities inside RHCAs, assure that facilities do not prevent attainment of aquatic Forest Plan management direction. Modify, relocate, or close existing facilities where aquatic Forest Plan management direction cannot be met.

Guideline: Minimize trailing livestock through Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs). Close or relocate livestock driveways to minimize impacts to RHCAs.

Guideline: Subject to valid existing rights, free-flowing water and associated riparian vegetation communities should be retained at developed spring sites. If possible, existing spring developments should be modified to return water to riparian ecosystems within the source drainage.

Guideline: Avoid equipment operation in stream courses, open water, seeps, or springs. If use of equipment in such areas is required, impacts should be minimized.

Guideline: Limit equipment operation in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs). If the use of equipment in these areas is required, incorporate additional mitigation to minimize adverse impacts.

Guideline: Implement intensive grazing management that provides periodic rest designed to achieve and maintain desired vegetation community composition and structure.

Guideline: Maintain at least 70 percent of potential effective ground cover to provide nutrient cycling and protect the soil from erosion in excess of soil loss tolerance limits.

Standard: Provide wildlife escape ramps in all developed water sources.

Guideline: Provide for wildlife movement through and/or around structures or projects sites such as fences, spring developments, guzzlers, roads and ditches.

Guideline: Defer livestock grazing in areas disturbed by wildland fire or other natural events until vegetation has reestablished sufficiently, but for no less than two growing seasons.

Standard: Only certified noxious weed-free hay or feed is allowed on National Forest land, including hay or feed for use by recreational livestock. Any materials such as hay, straw, or mulch that are used for rehabilitation and reclamation activities shall be certified weed-free.

Allotment Management Plan Objectives

Reach at least the mid-seral ecological status on all vegetative sites except Class I riparian areas.
Reach late-seral to PNC ecological status on all Class I riparian areas.

Other Requirements

Actual Use: Please complete the enclosed actual use record form at the close of the grazing season and return to the Spanish Fork Ranger District before December 1.

Salt: Salt will be used as a tool to improve livestock distribution. Place salt where use is light, such as ridge tops and areas away from water. Avoid stock tanks, wet meadows, and creek bottoms. Place salt away from roads and developed trails.

State Livestock Health Laws: All owners of livestock must comply with state livestock health laws.

Dead Livestock: Livestock which die within 100 yards of public roads or live water will be disposed of in a manner approved by the District Ranger or his/her representative.

Off Road Vehicle Use: Off road vehicle use for reconstruction or maintenance of range improvements listed in these operating instructions is hereby authorized. ATV's or trucks can be used to haul salt on system and non-system roads or trails. No new trails or roads can be made. Use of off road vehicles is limited to periods of time when weather and ground conditions are such that rutting and soil movement will not occur. Any other off road vehicle use shall be approved in advance (location and time) by the District Ranger or his/her representative. Absent this approval, travel restrictions described in the Forest Supervisors Order of May 27, 2005 and in the Uinta National Forest Summer Travel Map (2007) apply.

Payment of Fees: The permittee will not allow owned or controlled livestock to be on Forest Service-administered lands unless the fees specified in the Bill for Collection are paid.

Compliance: The permittee is responsible for compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing permit, allotment management plan, operating instructions and the directions of the Forest Officer in charge. Failure to meet these terms and conditions is violation of the grazing permit.

SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

- ✓ The Forest Service will meet with the permittees to look at the possibility of fencing off the spring that is at the head of Vernon Creek in the Sabie Bench Pasture.

- ✓ Ajax Cattle Company will install a new trough in the Redskin Knolls Pasture. This will replace the existing fiberglass trough which is on Ekker's Private land. A pipeline will be installed through Ekker's land to the Forest just east of the private land. The Forest Service will provide the material. The Forest Service will also have the waterline installed.

- ✓ The permittee and Forest Service will work with GIP to provide a new pipeline and solar pump from the Little Valley Spring up to the pond location in the Sabie Bench Pasture, where a new trough will be installed. The pipeline will continue on to the Sharpes Valley and Bennion Allotments where other troughs will be added. The Forest Service is awaiting water rights approval before the NEPA can be finalized.

MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

The permittee is responsible for all improvements assigned in the term grazing permits and listed in these operating instructions. Maintenance shall mean the timely repair of management facilities to a condition adequate to perpetuate the life of the facility and to serve the purpose intended. All improvements will be maintained to the standard for which they were constructed. Maintenance includes permittee responsibility for furnishing the materials needed for repairs. Allotment boundary fences must be maintained before cattle enter the allotment. Pasture division fences and water developments must be maintained before cattle can enter each pasture. Improvements will be maintained to the following standards:

Posts, Poles and Bucks

Replace broken or rotten posts, bucks, brace poles and poles
Notch poles and attach to posts or bucks with spikes
Straighten and re-tamp loose wood brace and line posts
Straighten or replace bent steel posts

Wire

Replace broken wire if necessary
Splice wire with double strand 12-gauge minimum size barbed wire or smooth wire
Wrap end of broken wires back around itself to form eye
Place splicing wire through eye and wrap back around itself
Make at least three wraps in each eye
Make wraps adjacent to each other
Re-space wire where spacing has been altered
Measure spacing from ground line in inches

4-wire	16	24	32	42
3 wire		18	28	40

Re-stretch wires tight with consideration for contraction and expansion.
Wire will not be twisted or kinked

Stays
Replace broken or missing stays
Straighten bent wire stays
Trees
Remove all fallen trees from fences
Do not use logs and/or brush instead of poles or wire
If wire is attached to trees, nail wood slab to tree and staple wire to slab
Gates
Stretch wire so gates will not sag, but easily open and close
Make gate loops with smooth wire
Wire Fasteners
Replace missing staples and steel post clip
Drive staples diagonally into bucks, braces and stays
Drive staples in wood posts, bucks and stays so wire can move
Drive staples in brace posts so wire cannot move
Water Developments
Keep troughs clean and free of debris
Repair leaks in troughs
Level water troughs
Replace broken trough braces
Replace or install small animal escape devices in troughs
Unplug pipelines if necessary
Replace trough plugs is missing
Replace broken pipes
Waterlines should be buried to protect form livestock
Clean and repair overflows
Maintain spring head fence according to above specifications
Clean spring boxes or debris and secure cover
Drain water troughs and pipelines at the end of the season as needed
Maintain overflows from ponds, keep spillways clan and protected from washing out

Maintenance responsibilities are listed below and shown on the attached map:

Map #	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra #
1	Little Valley/Sharps Valley Allotment Boundary Fence	0.86 miles of steel posts with 4 strands of barbed wire and spiral stays.	Johnson	823001
2	Little Valley/Benmore #1 Allotment Boundary Fence (Red Skin Knolls/Bennion Canyon Pasture Boundary Fence)	South end is 1.82 miles of wood & steel posts with 4 strands of barbed wire and metal spiral stays.	Johnson	823035

Map #	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra #
3	Little Valley/Benmore #2 Allotment Boundary Fence (Red Skin Knolls/East Dutch Pasture Boundary Fence)	0.25 miles of wood posts with 4 strand barbed wire	Johnson	823040
4	Little Valley/Bennion #1 Allotment Boundary Fence (Sabie Bench/East Reservoir Pasture Boundary Fence)	0.48 miles of wood posts with 4 strands barbed wire	Johnson	823012
5	Little Valley/Bennion #2 Allotment Boundary Fence Segment 1 (Ungrazed area/East Reservoir Pasture Boundary Fence)	0.058 miles of wood posts with 4 strands barbed wire. East segment	Johnson	823013-1
6	Little Valley/Bennion #2 Allotment Boundary Fence Segment 2 (Ungrazed area/East Reservoir Pasture Boundary Fence)	0.111 miles of wood posts with 2 strands of barbed wire. West segment	Johnson	823013-2
7	Little Valley/Bennion #3 Allotment Boundary Fence (Red Skin Knolls/Vernon Reservoir Boundary Fence)	0.21 miles of steel & wood posts with 4 strands barbed wire	Johnson	823011
8	Little Valley/Red Skin Knolls Pasture Boundary Fence	0.30 miles of steel posts with 4 strands barbed wire and spiral stays	Johnson	823004
9	Red Knolls/Riparian Pasture Pasture Boundary Fence	0.95 miles of steel posts with 4 strands barbed wire and spiral stays	Johnson	823021
10	Sabie Bench/Riparian Pasture Pasture Boundary Fence	2.368 miles of steel posts with 4 strands barbed wire and spiral stays	Johnson	823006
11	Little Valley/Riparian Pasture Pasture Boundary Fence	0.832 miles of steel & wood posts with 4 strands barbed wire and spiral stays	Johnson	823003
12	Little Valley/Sabie Bench Pasture Boundary Fence	0.98 miles of steel posts with 4 strands barbed wire and spiral stays	Johnson	823017

Map #	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra #
13	Ungrazed area/Sabie Bench Pasture Boundary Fence	0.78 miles of steel & wood posts with 4 strands barbed wire and spiral stays	None	823015
14	Ungrazed area/Riparian Pasture Pasture Boundary Fence *(Needs to be removed)*	0.29 miles of steel posts with 4 strands barbed wire and spiral stays	None	823019
15	Little Valley Drift Fence (Burn Fence)	1.33 miles of steel posts with 3 strands barbed wire and spiral stays	Johnson	823033
16	Little Valley Drift Fence Removal	1.46 miles of steel posts with 4 strands barbed wire and spiral stays	None	823030
17	Little Valley Riparian Drift Fence Removal	0.07 miles steel posts and barbed wire	None	823045
18	Little Valley Riparian Exclosure	1.68 miles of steel posts and 3 electrical wires	Johnson & Jasperson	823025
19	Little Valley Corrals	Railroad ties and steel panels.	Johnson	823046
20	Forest Service/BLM Cattle Guard	Channel Steel 18'x 8'	Tooele County	823CG1
21	Little Valley/Private Land Cattle guard #1 (North end Greens)	Channel Steel 16' x 8'	Tooele County	823CG4
22	Little Valley/Private Land Cattle guard #2 (South End Greens)	Channel Steel 14' x 8'	Tooele County	823CG5
23	Little Valley/Private Land Cattle guard #3 (Wolfs West End)	Channel Steel 14'x 8'	Tooele County	823CG6
24	Little Valley/Private Land Cattle guard #4 (Wolfs East End)	2 8, foot cattle guards with cement base	Tooele County	823CG10

Map #	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra #
25	Little Valley/Private Land Cattle guard #5	Channel Steel 10'x 8'		823CG7
26	Little Valley/Benmore Cattle Guard #1 (Red Skin Knolls)	Channel steel 15 x 7 foot		823CG3
27	Riparian Pasture/Sabie Bench Pasture Cattle Guard #1 (Sabie Mountain)	Channel Steel 12' x 8'		823CG2
28	Riparian Pasture/Sabie Bench Pasture Cattle Guard #2	Channel steel 16'x 8'	Tooele County	823CG8
29	Little Valley/Benmore Cattle Guard #2 (Little Valley)	Channel Steel 14'x 8'		823CG9
30	Little Valley/Sharps ATV Cattle Guard	Rebar 6'x 8'	Forest Service Recreation	823CGATV1
31	North Pond	50'x 40'x 5' foot earthen pond	Johnson	823042
32	Sabie Bench Water Development *(removal)*	34'x 3'x 2' half round sheet metal trough	None	823041T

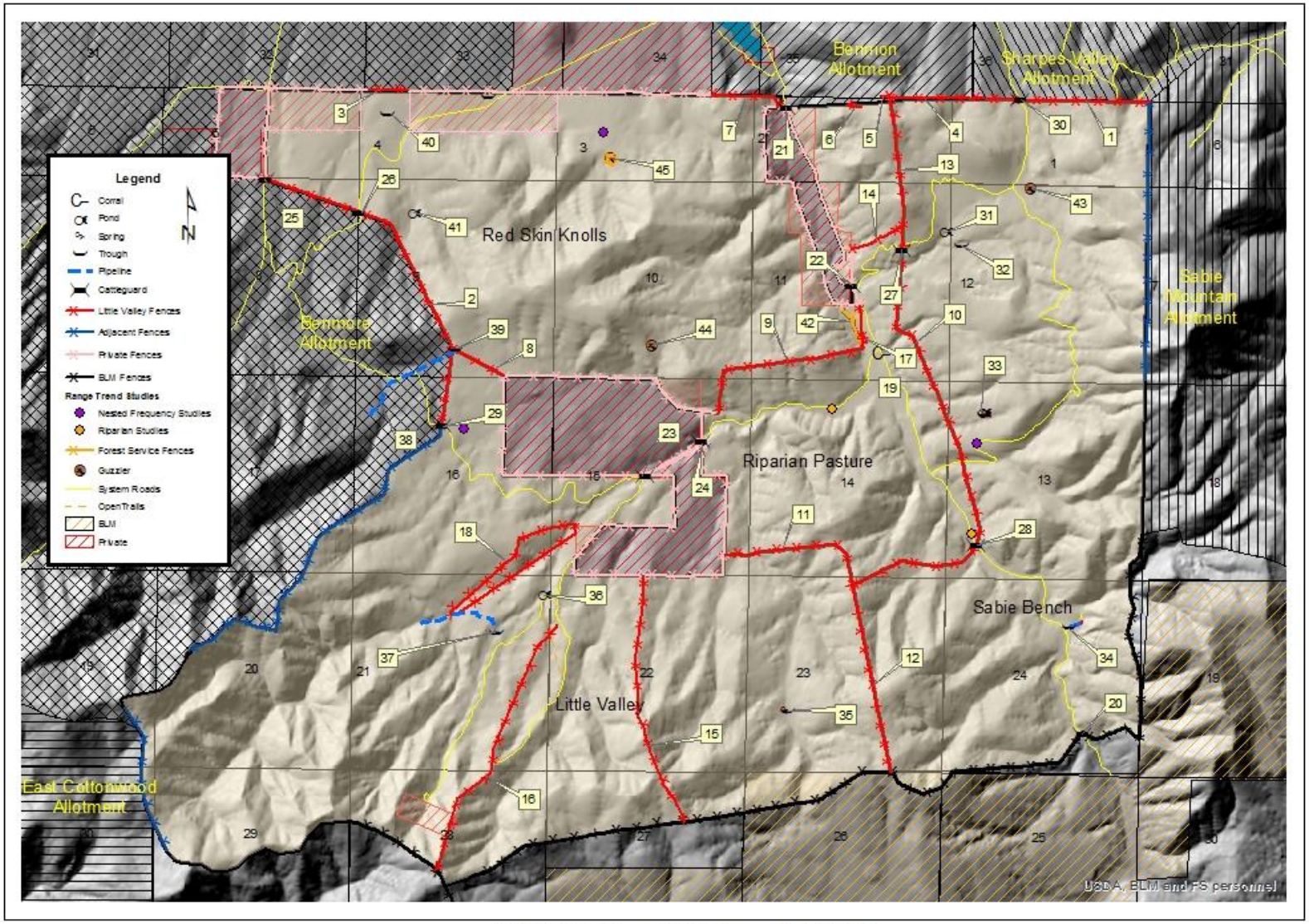
Map #	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra #
33	Sabie Bench Water Development	The first water collection area is collected with buried perforated pipe and gravel. and enclosed with 208 feet of post and pole fence. The second collection area is collected with buried perforated pipe and gravel (Need to GPS) and enclosed with 120 feet of post and pole fence. Pipeline is 69 feet of 1.5 inch diameter polyethylene pipe. Need to GPS second line. 2,350 gallon 14 foot round fiberglass trough. 2000 gallon earthen overflow pond 30'x 20'.	Johnson	823002S1 823002F1 823002S2 823002F2 823002P1 823002P2 823002T 823002PO
34	Iron Mine Spring Water development	Water is collected with buried perforated pipe and gravel that Needs to be GPSed. Water collection area is enclosed with 140 feet of steel and wood posts with 4 strands barbed wire. Pipeline is 400 feet of 1.5 inch diameter polyethylene pipe. GPS second line and spring. 583 gallon, Powder River Trough. 14'x 4'x 2'	Johnson	823007S1 823007S2 823007F 823007P1 823007P2 823007T

Map #	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra #
35	Choke Cherry Water Development	Water is collected with buried perforated pipe and gravel and diverted to a 30 inch diameter PVC head box. Head box is enclosed with 192 feet of steel posts with 4 strands barbed wire. Pipeline is 63 feet of 1.5 inch diameter polyethylene pipe. GPS second pipeline. 650 gallon rectangular fiberglass trough, 14'x 4'x 2'.	Jasperson	823005S 823005P1 823005P2 823005F 823005T
36	Little Valley Pond *(abandoned)*	Earthen pond	None	823008
37	Little Valley Water Development	Water is piped out of Little Valley Creek. GPS point of diversion .0.40 miles of 1.5 inch diameter polyethylene pipe GPS additional pipe to point of diversion. 1700 gallon, round 12'x 2' fiberglass trough	Johnson	823014S 823014P 823014T
38	Snow Hollow Pipeline	0.59 miles of f 1.5 inch polyethylene pipe	Johnson	823009P2
39	Snow Hollow Pipeline Trough #2	1,140 gallon, round 10' x 2' fiberglass trough	Johnson	823009T2
40	Vernon Irrigation Company Trough #1	495 gallon Powder River trough 46"x 20"x 12'	Johnson	823018T1
41	Red Skin Knolls Pond	Earthen Pond 30'x 30'x 6'	None	823044
42	Vernon Creek Fisheries Exclosure #1	155 feet of steel post and wire fence	Forest Service Fisheries	8F18233
43	Sabie Bench Guzzler	Fiberglass guzzler	Forest Service Wildlife	8WL8234A
44	Little Valley Guzzler	Fiberglass guzzler	Forest Service Wildlife	8WL8231A

Map #	Improvement	Description	Maintenance	Infra #
45	Red Skin Knoll Guzzler	Fiberglass guzzler. Enclosed with approximately 80 feet of fence	Forest Service Wildlife	8WL8232B

Changes in these annual operating instructions must be approved in advance by the Forest Service. We look forward to working with you this coming grazing season.

_____	_____
PERMITTEE	DATE
_____	_____
PERMITTEE	DATE
_____	_____
SPANISH FORK DISTRICT RANGER	DATE



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Uinta-Watach-Cache National Forest
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0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1
Miles